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# Oregon House Democrats Prioritize Community and School Safety, Pass Gun Violence Prevention Bill

*States without gun violence prevention legislation face higher rates of gun deaths and crimes*

**SALEM, Ore.** - Today, Oregon House Democrats passed the **Gun Violence Prevention Bill** (House Bill 2005), legislation that will make communities and schools safer, help law enforcement do their jobs, keep guns out of the wrong hands, and respect responsible gun ownership. States without gun violence prevention legislation [face higher rates](#) of gun deaths and crimes.

The bill bans ghost guns, or unserialized firearms that have become the gun of choice for criminals; raises the minimum age of purchase and possession to 21 for certain firearms with exemptions for military and law enforcement; and gives local jurisdictions the option to prohibit guns in public spaces.

“As a responsible gun owner, I know thoughts and prayers can only go so far,” **said Representative Paul Evans** (D-Independence/Monmouth), **a military veteran and chief sponsor of the bill**. “This strikes the balance between community safety and individual liberty – an Oregon approach and solution to a growing challenge.”

“When guns are the number one cause of death of children in the United States and gun violence continues to rise, it is time to take action,” **said Representative Lisa Reynolds** (D-Washington County), **a pediatrician and chief sponsor of the bill**. “Every single Oregonian has the right to feel safe in their communities. Today, we are making Oregon a safer place.”

House Bill 2005 is the result of extensive outreach with communities across the state, including gun owners and enthusiasts, hunters, retailers, the Department of Justice, local governments, advocates and survivors of gun violence.

“I have seen the devastating effects of this violence firsthand when treating gun violence victims in the Emergency Department,” **said [Representative Travis Nelson](#)** (D-N & NE Portland), **a registered nurse**. “It’s time to break this cycle of violence. This will help move our state to one in which our children and communities do not fear for their lives.”

“We owe action to our children, to our teachers, to every family that kisses their loved ones goodbye in the morning. We owe action to law enforcement who increasingly are risking their own lives and safety,” **said [Representative Dacia Grayber](#)** (D-SW Portland & E Beaverton), **a firefighter and chief sponsor of the bill**.

“There are a number of actions we will take this session to build safer and healthier communities, but to tackle the gun violence epidemic, we must also couple those efforts with common sense gun safety laws,” **said [Representative Jason Kropf](#)** (D-Bend), **a former public defender and prosecutor and chief sponsor of the bill**.

“Every child should feel safe when they go to school, and everyone should feel safe in their communities,” **said [House Speaker Dan Rayfield](#)** (D-Corvallis). “That’s why House Democrats unanimously passed House Bill 2005 to help prevent gun violence in our communities.”

The Gun Violence Prevention Bill passed 35-24 and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

### **Gun Violence Prevention Bill (HB 2005) Breakdown:**

**Banning Ghost Guns:** “Ghost Guns” are undetectable and untraceable firearms without a serial number which cannot be traced, or firearms made entirely out of nonmetal materials which cannot be detected by metal detectors. The untraceable nature of these firearms poses a significant challenge for law enforcement in keeping weapons out of the hands of criminals, and when investigating crimes.

Through House Bill 2005, people convicted of possession of an undetectable firearm would face a misdemeanor on the first offense, which carries up to 364 days in jail, a \$6,250 fine, or both. Second offenses and beyond would carry up to 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. The bill has a provision to give time for gun owners to ensure their firearms are serialized, thus bringing them into compliance.

**Raising the Age of Purchase & Possession for Certain Firearms:** House Bill 2005 specifies the firearms that 18 to 20 year olds can possess and purchase – it does not impose a blanket prohibition on all firearms ownership until 21. The bill also brings Oregon firearm possession statutes in alignment with the federal age to purchase a handgun, which is 21 years of age. It includes certain and specific exemptions, including for law enforcement and military service.

Six of nine of the deadliest mass shootings in the US since 2018 were carried out by people 21 or younger. In Uvalde, the shooter was 18; in Parkland, the shooter was 19; at the Safeway in Bend, the shooter was 20; at Tops Grocery in Buffalo, the shooter was 18.

**Local Control for Firearms in Public Buildings:** Local jurisdictions know what is best for their communities. That's why House Bill 2005 gives local governments the option to prohibit guns in their buildings and adjacent grounds in order to provide safe spaces, free from fear.

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